

ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

Approved

April 26, 2022

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday April 26, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, Shirley Canniff and Josh Fenollosa. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

Anticipated Speakers: Sarah Forster, Amy Horton, Colleen McGrath

Preliminary Matter: Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call and read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Lasker.

Open Forum – N/A

Coyote Awareness Park Signs

The Commission discussed and approved the recommended sign language but asked that they receive a final draft of the sign. Ms. Mayer also asked that the Planning Department review the sign to make sure it is in compliance with the new sign bylaw.

Communication Boards for our Parks Discussion

Ms. Forster presented to the Commission her request that Communication Boards be placed in our parks and playgrounds. Ms. Forster reviewed her slide presentation with the Commission showing numerous examples of communication boards in other communities. The Commission discussed the request. Mr. Connelly suggested asking the Institute of Human Centered Design for their recommendation. Mr. Lasker commented on the lack of standardized symbols seen in the examples. Mr. Walker suggested looking more into the Flutie Foundation grant and using that sign as a pilot. Other Commissioners agreed with that approach. The Commission thanked Ms. Forster for her time and commitment to this important issue. Mr. Connelly will follow up with IHCD and the Flutie Foundation.

Article 12 – Regulating Bottled Water Sales – N/A

Special Event Approval

Relay for Life Greater Boston –Hurd Field – 6-18-22

The Commission reviewed the request with Ms. Horton and Ms. McGrath. Mr. Walker motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Canniff, and approved 5-0.

Friends of Robbins 2022 Schedule

Mr. Connelly reviewed the schedule of proposed events by the Friends of Robbins Farm for 2022. The Commission discussed the requests. Ms. Rothenberg requested that the same conditions are placed on the Fourth of July event as previous years including an approved plan by APD. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the 2022 schedule as presented with the conditions referenced, seconded by Ms. Mayer, and approved 5-0.

Somerville Homeless Coalition – Florence Field – 5-13-22

The Commission discussed the request and change of venue. Ms. Mayer and others expressed concern about precedent and the fact that the event is being held in a park that has several close abutters. The Commission

discussed approving the event as a pilot and with the condition that direct abutters are notified of the event a week in advance. Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the event as a pilot as long as proper abutter notice of the event is given, motion seconded by Mr. Walker and approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

4-12-2022 – Minutes Tabled

3-22-2022 – Motion to approve by Mr. Walker, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0-1.

3-29-2022 - The minutes were slightly amended for grammaticism. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve as amended, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

New Business

The Commission discussed adding the following to a future agenda:

Communication Boards

Planning Sign Bylaw Requirements in Open Space

The Commission discussed the ongoing issue of off leash dog activity in our parks and expressed frustration. Ms. Canniff asked that another town wide notice be sent out. Mr. Connelly will set this up with the Communication Officer. Ms. Rothenberg asked that additional signage be placed in the parks. Mr. Connelly and the Commission discussed the details of how additional signage would work.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm on a motion by Ms. Rothenberg, seconded by Ms. Canniff, and approved 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted By

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation